

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

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A NEW RAIL FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

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THE large rail that inhabits the marshes of southern California differs very much from *Rallus obsoletus* of the marshes of San Francisco Bay, and quite as much from *R. beldingi* of Lower California. It is not a common bird in collections; still there are several skins in the National Museum, several in Mr. William Brewster's collection, and one in my own. All of these I have examined, and I find very little variation among them. Its characters are so well marked and so constant that I regard it as a distinct species, and I propose to call it

**Rallus levipes**<sup>1</sup> sp. nov.

*Type*, from Newport Landing, Los Angeles Co., California, ♀ adult, no. 678, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Feb. 23, 1886, by F. Stephens.

*Characters*.—Much smaller than either *R. obsoletus* or *R. beldingi*; bill much more slender; tarsus and foot smaller than in either. In color it differs from *R. obsoletus* in being much darker above—more olive and less grayish, brown; in having breast and sides of neck deep cinnamon-rufous instead of grayish cinnamon, this color extending well up on sides of neck and meeting the color of upper parts sharply; ground color of flanks, etc., darker—less grayish; a gray patch behind eye; superciliary streak *white* instead of *rusty*. From *R. beldingi* it differs, in color, in having the back feathers much less decidedly streaked; breast, etc., less pinkish or salmon-colored; flanks, etc., browner—

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<sup>1</sup> *Levipes*—light-footed.

without dusky bars bordering the white ones, the white bars wider; superciliary streak *white* instead of *rusty*.

*Color*.— Above, olive brown, broadly striped with blackish brown; breast, etc., deep cinnamon-rufous, extending over sides of neck and meeting color of upper parts sharply; flanks, etc., olive, broadly banded with white; centre of belly and throat whitish; superciliary streak white; a gray patch on side of head behind eye.

*Measurements*.— Type, ♀ adult; wing, 152.; tail, 58.2; tarsus, 49.; culmen, 58. mm. Topotype, ♀ adult, no. 47,848, coll. of Wm. Brewster: wing, 141.; tail, 56.6; tarsus, 45.; culmen, 54.2 mm.